

The Labour Organiser

PUBLISHING OFFICE: DEANSWAY, WORCESTER

Communications to be addressed to H. Drinkwater, Editor-Manager,
Fernhill Heath, near Worcester

Vol. 22. No. 250

1942

Price 4d.

5/- per annum, post free

Nice people, but———?

Just over twelve months ago we wrote protesting against the new war psychology which results in turning one's hand against one's nearest neighbour, in decrying our own countrymen, and seeking fault in everyone's war effort, or war position, except one's own.

We wrote:—

"No day passes but some section of the population is pilloried; indeed, if all that is alleged against different sections is but half true we are, as a nation, well worthy of all that Hitler can do to us."

Those words are as true to-day as when we wrote them—perhaps truer. The spate of internecine criticism goes on.

We are not now speaking of political warfare, criticism of the Government, of the conduct of the war, or the strife of the workers, but of that barking and biting at fellow citizens of which the newspapers, some publicists and many people are guilty.

Take the letters to the Press, which are selected for publication as an instance. Every growl or whine contains a plea for some other person's condition to be altered—else, apparently, the letter wouldn't appear in print.

This is an age of compulsion. Gone is the pretence that the people willingly sacrifice. But compulsion is catching. Everybody wants somebody else to be compelled or be deprived. Nasty names are invented for this or that, and the same persons who miscall others may themselves be called back by another tag. The whole nation is occasionally

attacked with, of course, the inevitable righteous exception of the speaker. Does anybody *ever* do right, or is it possible for anybody to lead a life, strenuous or otherwise, in which his actions are not open to vituperation and abuse from one or another quarter?

One sometimes wonders whether there is system in all this. Does "Divide and Rule" play a part? And is there somewhere a deliberate intent to keep the people individually apart and suspicious of each other so that a common people's movement may not develop, or a united democracy secure its will? Or are these things but symptoms of a mental war disease rooted in blood and sweat and toil?

There is grave import for Socialists in all this. We believe in the people, or, anyway, we all pay lip service to that idea. But are the people, after all, child-like and precocious—and but a crude collection of swine, sulking, thieving, cheating, dodging, tricking all the time?

This matter is a test of our faith. If the people are faithless and perverse, is it our intention to legislate over them, for them, and in spite of them? If so, we are Fascists, or we believe in the dictatorship of, not the proletariat even, but ourselves. And these three alternatives have little fundamental difference.

We speak because we believe this incessant bickering is unsocial and obstructive to our Party's progress. As we pointed out 14 months ago, a house

divided against itself cannot stand. Nor can one build on shifting sand, which is just what some folk would have our countrymen to be.

Labour must set its face against these things. "United Nations" indeed! In this war there has never been a united nation—here at home. The unity is but the oil upon the surface. But the waves are warring underneath.

There is a clear task before Labour. It is to light again among its own people the lamp of love and lift aloft the ideals for which we strive. *That* will bring unity—and triumph. And, anyway, it is better than to suffer a nation of wasps.

Additional Candidatures

BUCKS.: South.—Mr. Edward Rolph, 260, Bowerdean Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. D.L.P.

YORKS.: Sheffield, Park.—Mr. T. W. Burden, M.P., 27, Deyncourt Gardens, Upminster, Essex. R.C.A.

LANCS.: Manchester, Clayton. — Mr. H. Thornewcroft, 112, Church Street, Newton Heath, Manchester, 10. D.L.P.

Withdrawals

BERKS.: Reading. — Miss Margaret Bondfield.

NORFOLK.: King's Lynn.—Major F. J. Wise.

War Damage Claims

Readers who give advice at their Advice Bureau ought to be aware of the following, for certainly the facts as stated are not generally known.

Speaking in the House of Commons on June 3, Captain Waterhouse, Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade, said, with regard to furniture and household gear lost through air raids:—

"Here and now the replacement value is the value adopted. There is no question of what a thing has cost. The value taken by the assessors is *the value at which a similar article can be purchased in the shops at the time of the loss*. Our assessors have very definite instructions."

Captain Waterhouse has since made an additional statement on the matter,

THE LABOUR PARTY

invite applications for the

DISTRICT ORGANISERSHIP FOR THE WEST MIDLAND REGION

Application Forms and the Conditions of Appointment may be had from the National Agent, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1, on or before October 17th, 1942.

which makes the position even more clear. He says:—

"The assessors (who are appointed by the Inland Revenue) have instructions to assess the claim at the prices ruling *at the time of the loss*. In other words, they assess the claim (as I said in the House) on the basis of the value at which a similar article can be purchased in the shops at the time of the loss. The scheme of insurance indemnity does not necessarily mean that new goods are provided irrespective of the condition of the goods destroyed, and therefore where the goods destroyed were not new something has to be taken off the new price to make appropriate allowance for use and consequent depreciation. As an illustration, where an article originally costing £6 had lost one-third of its value by use, and a similar article bought new at the time of the loss would cost £9, owing to the rise in prices, the value of the lost article for compensation would be £9 less one-third depreciation = £6."

By the way, does your Party possess a full inventory of all its goods and chattels? It ought to.

L.L.P.—

Notes and News

GREENWICH

A Report just issued by the Greenwich Labour Party covering the period January 11th, 1940, to 31st August, 1942, is got up in striking form. On the front page we see in bold figures the following:—

**964
DAYS**

The Report of those 964 days is an epic story. There was bombing, evacuation, call-up, death and destruction everywhere; even Party premises suffered, though only minor damage done. In spite of all this, a loan in respect of the building has been reduced from £250 to £50 in the period named and the Party has gone bravely on, functioning in spite of all difficulties. Membership in the period covered yielded £319, and the balance in the bank, at £129, at the beginning of the period, is actually a few shillings higher at the end of it. Socials have produced £90 odd, affiliation fees £367, and donations and grants £398. The Legal Advice Bureaux continued to function throughout. It is a story briefly told of which we cannot give all the details, but we do render tribute to the great work accomplished.

NOTTINGHAM

A Report from Nottingham of the joint "Aid to Russia Fund" shows that a sum of £2,392 17s. 8d. has been raised in the last nine months. The Labour Party itself has been responsible for nearly £500, and practically the whole sum has been handed over to the National Council of Labour.

THE HARTLEPOOLS

It is rather surprising to hear from the Hartlepoons—we should have called them the suffering Hartlepoons—that the attendance of delegates at D.L.P. meetings is slightly higher than pre-

war. Membership was maintained last year and the signs are that it will be up this year.

TORQUAY

Torquay Labour Party secured a useful bit of publicity for Labour's May-Day Festival in the "Torquay Times." Perhaps three inches of advertising may have helped in this, but certainly a half page of Labour's message was worth getting free of charge.

HALIFAX

Halifax, too, is to be congratulated on a nice bit of publicity in the "Halifax Weekly Courier and Guardian" and the "Halifax Evening Courier and Guardian." The Secretary, Mr. Herbert Clegg, apparently wrote up an account of Labour's 50 years' work in Halifax. The news value of this well-written account evidently appealed to the Editors concerned, and a column of first-rate propaganda value was the result.

EDMONTON

From Edmonton comes the news that at the August meeting a membership drive was reported on in a certain Ward of the Borough. This drive has resulted in 100 new members, making a total of 350 new members in this Ward from the date of the meeting. We understand that another 100 members have been added since. Mr. R. T. Windle, Assistant National Agent, in sending a letter of congratulation, points out that the result is an indication that even under present difficult circumstances there is scope for making individual membership. Edmonton appears to have proved the point.

GLOUCESTER

Congratulations to the "Gloucester Labour News," which has now commenced its sixth year of publication. This is generally a readable and useful monthly magazine.

NEWPORT (Mon.)

Apropos of membership endeavours, Newport, Mon., which has had a big membership for many years, has brought out a most attractive

membership leaflet which is printed in the Party colours—green and white. This production is not an example of wartime printing, and though it is not extravagant it is certainly designed to attract. The design is worth copying, although those who send for a copy are reminded of the usual courtesies in such matters. Address: Mr. R. H. Ley, 84, Stow Hill, Newport, Mon.

WINCHESTER

From Winchester comes the following story of good work (slightly condensed):—

We ended the year 1941 with a balance at bank on the Revenue Account of over £62 and a balance in the bank on the Election Fund of over £57.

Three local Parties have been forced by prevailing conditions to close down Party activity, but Eastleigh are continuing with their work and making new members. The St. Nicholas Ward of Southampton, though badly hit by evacuation and other blitz problems, refuse to give way in their work, and, largely owing to the example of their Secretary, Councilor H. T. Willcock, have been able to keep their Labour Hall going in full swing, and, as a result, have handed over £150 profit to the Ward Association (after paying £4 per week rent!). Largely due to this fine management of the Hall, the Association has over £400 in the Bank, and £220 has been raised for various charities.

Eastleigh has worked hard and raised a good deal of money for the "Aid To Russia Fund," and has also taken a kindly interest in local lads who are prisoners of war by arranging for parcels to be sent to them.

The actual membership of the Division in 1941 was 717 members.

Party activity was very restricted during the year for varied reasons, but it is now hoped to surmount many difficulties and to rope in many people who are now really sympathetic to the Labour Party.

FAVERSHAM

We understand that the Faversham, Kent, Division, is turning up trumps. Reorganisation efforts at Sittingbourne resulted in over 70 members rejoining the Party. A May-Day re-union was held this year—the first since the war, and there were over 500

present. The Women's Section from Sheerness succeeded in making a quantity of toys from scrap material and these were sold at this function, fetching over £30 for the Russia Fund. The Secretary writes:—"Labour Organiser treasured more than ever these days. Everyone speaks in the highest possible terms. I have my copies bound. Renewed strength to your arm and many more years in the service of the cause."

CORBY

Anent our reference last month to the Labour Party Bulletin, we now learn with interest that Councilor Easton, of Corby, Northants, sells 400 copies each month. What a terrific power a dozen of such enthusiasts might be in other Divisions.

WOOLWICH

Woolwich has sent over £2,600 to the "Help for Russia Fund" since the Fund opened in October last.

NORTH TOTTENHAM

The Women's Section at North Tottenham are showing fine activity. The Central Section have raised £23 for the Nursing Association as a result of successful socials. White Hart Lane Section organised a successful outing to Windsor and have raised money for Manor House Hospital. Coleraine Section have raised and sent to members' relatives goods to the value of over £25. They have a Knitting Party for Prisoners of War Comforts. This Section were "mine host" to the East Middlesex Labour Women's Conference last week, when the speaker was Mr. Harold Clay. West Green Section have an excellent Concert Party.

A New L.P. Leaflet

Now that propaganda literature is so definitely in short supply, Local Parties will be glad of the publication by the Labour Party of a new two-colour leaflet of powerful appeal, and which contains a membership application form.

This double-purpose leaflet is sold at 15/- per 1,000, carriage paid. Emphasis on the desirability of ordering early before paper supplies give out should hardly be necessary. The lull still lasts in most parts of the country and now is the time to make members.

Ipswich Trades Council And Labour Party

SECRETARY AGENT WANTED

Salary in accordance with recognised Scale. Appointment will be made in conjunction with Head Office.

Application Form can be obtained from

Alderman R. F. JACKSON,
33, Silent Street,
Ipswich.

Applications close October 31st.

Workers' Film Association

The activities of the W.F.A. during recent months have included a number of interesting innovations.

The Trades Union Congress decided to organise a series of twelve regional conferences on the Worker and War Problems and invited the Association to provide a programme of films so as to give point to the subject. The films selected to do this were "Builders," "Shipbuilders" and "Coal Front." The conferences were most successful.

The Association arranged a film show for delegates at the T.U.C. at Blackpool. A film of special interest to trade unionists on Rehabilitation, entitled "Life Begins Again," was introduced by two representatives of the medical profession, who explained the interesting work being done to put back injured workers to their old job. Injured workers are taken to special centres where they are trained to use injured limbs in a way to ensure cures in 90 per cent. of cases. This was followed by a film distributed by the Ministry of Information, entitled "The Harvest

Shall Come." This film has been rejected by the film trade for commercial exhibition, and the Ministry is showing it non-theatrically. It is the story of a nation's treatment of its basic workers, the agricultural labourer. The callousness with which we have dealt with our skilled agricultural workers is a disgrace to our civilisation, and the film says so. Then we had the opportunity of showing "Our Film," made by the Denham film workers as a contribution to the war effort. It was well received, and we are able to announce that the W.F.A. has obtained non-theatrical rights for this film.

During the week-end of September 5th and 6th, the Association held a continuous showing of films at the Hotel Royal, Woburn Place. This fixture enabled our members to see films they contemplate showing during the coming season. Fifty films were shown.

On September 26th and 27th, a Film School is being held at Hotel Royal, Woburn Place, W.C.1, when the speakers will be Basil Wright, Thomas Baird and Herbert Marshall. Full particulars may be obtained from the Secretary of the Association, Transport House, Smith Square, S.W.1.

LEIGH DIVISIONAL LABOUR PARTY

Invite applications from Party
Members for the post of

FULL-TIME Agent and Secretary

Salary £260 per annum, minimum, plus war-time increase.

Applications to reach the undersigned not later than Saturday, November 7th, 1942 (endorsed Secretary Agent).

Ald. J. L. PRESCOTT, J.P.,
122, Holden Road,
Leigh, Lancs.

Your queries answered here

INSURANCES TO PAY

L.T.—We think it is up to you to take proper business precautions for the security of Party property. Past issues of the "Labour Organiser" will tell you what we think you ought to do by way of preserving Party records.

As to war insurance of the Party premises, surely you or your predecessor have received a demand from the Income Tax authorities for the payment of war damage tax. This is compulsory. You should make enquiries about it.

As to furniture, fittings and the like, these are insurable against damage under the business scheme. The rate varies from time to time and has been as low as 5/- per £100. You should apply to an authorised insurer, *i.e.*, your usual insurance society or company, for an application form and details of your present premium. The period begins on 1st October and at the time of writing we are not sure what the premium is for the next six months.

The other insurances you require are (a) fire insurance for which the premium is trivial, (b) plate glass insurance (if you think it worth it) for the shop windows. As the rooms downstairs are being used as meeting rooms they are quite liable to breakage and the premium is comparatively small. (c) Public liability. You are liable for the safety of persons who attend meetings in the hall or who have access to other parts of the building. Black-out increases this liability and it is just as well to be insured against claims which, however unfounded, may be made. This type of insurance is much neglected, but it is a sound one nevertheless. The legal aid alone is valuable.

COLLECTORS' BOOKS

P.D.—The Labour Party can sell you suitable books for the use of your collectors. These collectors' books were introduced by us some years ago. The Party also have on sale pads of monthly reports for collectors. Receipt forms are attached.

THE WHEELS MUST GO ROUND

M.C.A.—We appreciate the many difficulties which you enumerate, but it is the essence of Party work to-day to keep the parts of the machine in being, even when membership falls away. The Ward Committee should not be disbanded even if it consists of only two or three. We are against shutting down the functioning of the Committee and placing matters in the hands of an emergency body. We should create a fine pothole if Parliament or our town councils proposed to do this.

The difficulties you mention all call for a special striving to surmount them, and the Party's history of the past three years affords numberless instances where temptations to do what you suggest have been resisted and the parties have lived through to even greater influence and power.

OVERLAPPING AREAS

L.A.M.—We are surprised that there is not in your area some provision for working both with the County Divisional Party and the Borough in which you find yourself municipally. Have you made some enquiries and are you sure that nothing of the kind was done in the past? We suggest that you consult the District Organiser, who will be able to help you in making arrangements that will give your little Party a foothold both in the Borough and in the County, much to the strengthening of your opportunities.

REDISTRIBUTION

C.—Our opinion is that redistribution is not likely to affect your Division for some years. Any redistribution that takes place prior to the date of the next General Election is likely to be confined to an attempt to remedy the most glaring anomalies.

War distribution of population is quite a different thing to peace distribution and movements have been considerable and unequal. No one can say that the movements after the war will necessarily be return movements,

although there will doubtless be other big changes and movements and shifts of population. This being so, the immediate future can hardly be an appropriate time to re-settle the boundaries of all Divisions.

CHARACTER IN AN OFFICER

T.H.—Anent recent references in the "Labour Organiser." This correspondent asks how far we recommend character reading as part of the training one would undergo to become an efficient organiser. Our correspondent humorously says he is not referring to phrenology, palmistry, or looking into a crystal!

We are glad of that assurance, because we once knew a parliamentary candidate who was great on astrology. This was entertaining, but, unfortunately the stars gave no warning as to the result of the poll.

Quite frankly, the suggestion made is new to us. Reading other people's characters does not appear to be half so important as building up one's own. The latter is the first thing to do, and an organiser should acquire grit and courage. He needs force of character, and, although some men are born that way, grit and courage will help in the making. By this we mean that a man must be prepared to take his stand, not to the point of refusing to see the case of the other side, but right up to the point of being prepared to stand or fall by what to him is right. The man who can influence others best will also be the one who gets the reputation of being "straight".

We don't think much of character reading by special method or test. The knack of weighing the moral strength and weaknesses of others comes from mixing in the world; sometimes by trial and error.

OUR STORY

D.E.—Our story was intended only as interesting reading not to convey any scientific information, for nobody knows for certain the history of past years.

It is nevertheless true that certain scientists hold that the continents were once closer together. If you cut out on paper the outlines of the old world and the new you will be surprised how closely they fit in. What is more, the ranges of mountains of Greenland, Scotland, Eastern America and South America become almost continuous. In

addition, some scientists claim that glacial traces confirm this theory. Indeed, if we could tuck Australia comfortably away where the Indian Ocean now is and bring South America nearer to Africa we should find the explanation of glacial traces and other features. So marked is this matter that it seems to confirm the theory mentioned.

Compare this with the belief of some scientists that the Pacific Ocean is a great scar caused by the breaking off of the moon. Might it not be natural that the rest of the earth then spread and settled down, just as a puddle of mud would if we were to take a great stone from out of it?

These things are not for us in the "Labour Organiser," but they indicate that our reference to Atlantis and America was not too far fetched.

YOUTH

These are difficult times indeed for the development of Youth Sections. This seems to us to afford all the more reason for consideration and help on the part of the senior parties.

In Rural areas firewatching at 18 is not yet compulsory, but the call-up and increasing pressure on young people is bound to affect us adversely. We wonder sometimes what the young people themselves think of these matters, for in a year of two these same young folk will be flooding on to the electoral registers. Will they then think kindly of those who conscripted them for this and that (or those who acquiesced in their conscription) without apparently a single Youth Organisation in the country being consulted upon the matter? As it appears to us those who have the least responsibility for the present times are placed in the position that "theirs but to do or die—theirs not to reason why." Will it all pan out successfully?

Tory reconstruction proposals for the enslavement of youth have had a bad press. We are right glad, however, that some of the chauvinists of our own Party did not get in with these proposals first, for we must not flatter ourselves that we are entirely free from the taint of persons who have sympathy with similar ideas. Let youth look out!

FELLOW-WORKERS

—but do you know them?

An understanding of British character and the variations of it is, we have always believed, of great importance to political organisers, speakers and Party workers generally.

If one is to win an electorate, often made up of mixtures, or, at any rate, with some sections drawn or transplanted from other areas, it is necessary to be acquainted not only with the people of one's own part of the country (their ways, their virtues, failings and idiosyncracies), but of all others.

This seems to us particularly necessary in an organiser, and in less degree perhaps in all who help to shape our Party and carry on its work.

In daily life one constantly comes across people from other areas, feeling like fish out of water. They are in a strange element, living among folk they do not understand and do not appreciate, and who probably do not appreciate them either. Dialect forms another obstacle to association.

These people are foreigners; as much foreigners, in fact, as a Parisian may be in London. It is rarely appreciated how widely British character does differ from locality to locality. The travelled man knows it and can adapt himself to the individual. It would be nice if we could all do this.

* * *

British character as portrayed in newspaper dope or by race idolators in "patriotic" publications is all "bunk." We do *not* all take our daily bath; people are still the great unwashed. We are *not* phlegmatic; Mafeking and race nights are the answer. One Englishman is *not* as good as five Frenchmen, as I was taught at school; maybe he's not as good as one Russian. We are *not* all born seamen; millions have never seen the sea, and when they do they buy fried fish and eat it at the pictures. We are *not* all bluff, hearty country fellows like John Bull; the typical factory hand is small and wiry, and our personal points include the usual ration of sneaks and snoopers. We are *not* born to Empire and colonists of God's own special making; we

haven't colonised India (and cannot) or Australia or Egypt or Central and Southern Africa, and we've ceased to colonise even Canada. Finally, we are *not* the cream of the earth's crust; we are just an ordinary, insular people, forty millions or thereabouts, and mostly fools, or we surely wouldn't have the State we've got nor be in the state we are!

After debunking all that, we haven't the space to describe what the nation is, nor the grease to lard it on. Our nation is, in the main, a respectable, prudish, hardworking and confiding lot, which very virtues are often our undoing. Labour's job is not only to improve the lot of the lot but to improve the lot themselves. On which more another day.

* * *

Feeling somewhat better for that, shall we now examine those differences we pointed to?

Let us take a line, say, from Barnstaple (Devon) to Barking (7 miles east of London) and construct thereon a triangle with its apex at Berwick.

Along the lines of that triangle we shall find the maximum, and an amazing difference of character, dialect and peoples, all in England. Scotland may be treated as lying in three layers of differing characters but with less total differences than are to be found along either side of our triangle.

Another point to remember is that each side of the triangle may be taken to cover a wide adjoining area. That leaves outside the sphere of these lines (if such an expression is permissible) only (a) the Birmingham area, where the population is polyglot, and a few Midland areas which attach themselves to the nearest point on the lines, and (b) the most easterly of the Eastern Counties, which possess no striking differences over the areas which adjoin the lines.

* * *

We would now like the reader to select any point on either line (except where Lancashire and Yorkshire are nearest to one another) and imagine

the transfer of a person from thence to any selected point on another line.

We suggest that such person will find himself among a population with a different dialect, tradition, history and, probably, social and political concept to his own. And the exceptions, save the one we name, are very few.

Let us travel over the triangle. Begin at London, where the average person is nimble witted, above the average in excitability, a part of trade or industry, and out of touch with agriculture. The line to Devon passes through residential areas, where the outlook (and breeding) is quite different, to agricultural areas and through that part of England where a lax climate affects character and politics. In the west the slow-thinking, stubborn, yeoman type is reached—the John Peels, John Bulls and John Hodges of England.

* * *

Across the Bristol Channel is the little Welshman, quick, fervid, with a mingled dourness (in the mining valleys) and devotion. The Marches further on made a cautious people, not so nimble-witted, nor so devout, and in North Wales we meet a different Welshman altogether.

In Lancashire, where home is more sacred than in any part of England, and hearth is the essence of home, there is mostly a warm, familiar people. Jump to Berwick and Northumberland and—where else, anyway, in all England, could a Northumbrian's tongue be understood?

Down again through Durham, where persecution has left its mark upon the miners, to Yorkshire—akin to Lancashire, of course, but a long way from being the same.

Touching Eastern England and the East Midlands, let no one imagine that the agricultural worker here is slow, like his prototype elsewhere; or that the factory hand of these parts is like unto the Lancashire mill hand or the heavy worker of "Up North."

It is tradition that has made many of these differences, plus environment. One won't quite get at the depths of Devonian (and Somerset) character until one reads of the Bloody Assize, or of Durham outlook till one learns about the Londonderrys. Nor will one justly compare the blazing fires and burnished hearths of Lancashire with

the empty grates of the South without recalling climate. And each of these factors goes to the making of a people we have to win.

* * *

'Tis thus, then, we see the field. Only a fool supposes that a given appeal has the same pull on all these peoples. It hasn't.

If we must understand our people, that means all of them, and intimately.

Those who travel have an advantage. But those who don't have an opportunity the traveller may miss. If one reads for interest, for education or for profit, the *local* history and geography books of the localities of England, one gains an insight into inner promptings, mind workings, impulse and interest that cannot fail to aid in sympathy and understanding with the "foreigners" one meets, nor fail to aid in a general understanding of one's countrymen.

Britishers are made of many races and the welding isn't finished yet. Many great orators know this, hence the variety of chords they touch in a single speech. For us there is not this need, yet how nice it is to feel at home with another people, or to comfort, to converse with, to understand, and to make a member of—the stranger that is within the gate.

LET THE BLACKFRIARS PRESS HELP YOU !

Printers of this Journal.
Let us help you in your
work by producing
your literature in good
and tasteful style at
reasonable prices, and
with quick despatch.
Send us your enquiries.

THE BLACKFRIARS PRESS
Phone 27813 LIMITED
Smith-Dorrien Road, Leicester

BY THE EDITOR

The Witch of Achill

SEQUELS

(Continued)

SYNOPSIS.

Ida, the witch of Achill (a wild island off the West Coast of Ireland), is a young woman of bewitching mien, cast in an ancient mould befitting this country. Pat is a young Irishman whom she has entranced and taken to her mother's hillside hovel, and not at all the first one so ensnared. Pat, however sticks, and Ida insists on a weird marriage ceremony performed by their two selves within a prehistoric ring of stones; a ring is tattooed upon her breast. A lone watcher is chased by Pat but escapes. They return home at night and a man's dead body is found lying on the floor.

There are four cameos I must now throw upon the scene before we again pick up our tangled skein.

I

Cameo 1. Scene: a group of Irish hovels. Characters: Mike. The clan.

High up on a western hillside of Achill there is a group of Irish hovels with common garden patches. Here the winds, come storm or sunshine, summer or winter, blew ever cold and strong. These folk are hardy, but not hardy enough to fight nature all through the centuries. For the clan has dwindled; but one young man remains among the old men and the women. This is Mike, who is married to a half-sister.

I would like you to have a picture of Mike, but then he is like Pat, whom I've already described. But Pat wasn't married; Mike is, and for which shed with me a tear.

II

Cameo 2. Scene: that other hillside. Characters: Ida and Mike.

Achill is famous for its storms. Ay, but this storm is more ancient than Achill. For when a woman scorns and a man storms and strikes, there is hell — especially in Ireland. It is so now.

Mike has, for a week, deserted his unlawful wife and taken up with Ida,

and now the witch, her purpose served, has driven him forth from her mother's home.

The tempest rages. Voices screech, mad passions fill the air with sounds. But Ida, at last calmed, utters slowly words which Mike doesn't understand, but fears with a deadly fear.

Mike sues for mercy. He would "make it up." But Ida just stares. It was as though "she slew him with a stare."

Ida turns her back and Mike walks dejectedly away.

III

Cameo 3. Scene: the hovels on the hillside. Characters: the clan. Mike.

Yes, Achill is famous for its storms. But by the holiest cromlech there never was a storm like this.

Mike has essayed to go home. But henceforth there is no home for Mike. The women and the old, old men gather round him. They shriek, they call, they curse, they clamour; they seek to rip and tear, to destroy the prodigal who fell for a witch's snare, who mixed the rich race blood of the proud clan with that of the devil's daughter, who, they hold descended anciently from those devils turned to stone upon the hill-tops.

They drive him forth; for ever he shall be a hunter and the hunted among the hills and in the wilds of Achill.

IV.

Cameo 4. Scene: the circle. Characters: Ida and Pat. Mike.

Ah, we have seen this scene before — Pat kneeling as at an altar; Ida stretched upon the stone, her bared and bloody breast open to the heavens. Neither knew, but, hungry, angry, with every beast-like instinct (save courage), roused to highest pitch within him, Mike steals upon the scene. Thus perhaps six, eight, maybe ten thousand years ago some other watcher saw his loved one make the supreme sacrifice.

Yes, Pat had no courage. Hunger, maybe, makes us all flinch. He needs a stone hammer, one blow of which would end his rival and regain his girl; or maybe a sharp-edged flint, such as the olden men left here in plenty long ago. Still more he needs the pluck of those ancestors, or the strength to sling a stone.

So Mike wanders round. In time, Ida sees him. Pat's chase begins and Mike escapes.

WE TAKE UP THE THREADS.

Ida's home has been very silent these last two days. Her mother, a feared and fearsome woman in her time, lies all day upon the bracken in the corner. Save for the occasional hungry squeals below and a faint imprecation in some forgotten tongue, the hours pass without a sound. Night falls but Pat and Ida do not return. Another day, and life in the old woman is ebbing fast.

'Tis evening. The catch lifts and there enters silently a man. Mike.

* * *

Mike has come for no other reason than to steal a meal. Well, he knows the meal cupboard, how to cut a fat hunk of bacon from the side hanging on the hook, where and withal to cook a satisfying feed, for was he not master here for a hectic week but a few months before?

But Mike knows that though Ida and Pat are far away, the old witch has yet to be dealt with. He goes over to her and stirs the old bundle.

Ida's mother wakens. She recognises the visitor and for a while watches him in silence. Then as though life had come back to her that it had so nearly forsaken altogether, she rouses herself, and hobbles over to help prepare the feed.

It is now that a witch's cunning and a woman's craft find play. Mike sits down to his meal and a full hearty one he begins to make. Ida's mother flutters round, fetching and serving. Now she is behind his chair. Mike stoops over his plate, and that second crash full upon his neck bone comes a jagged razor-edged stone that for a lifetime has wedged the door when open. 'Tis an ancient flint from the debris in the hills, fashioned in the days before history, and held back by the gods or the devils in those hills to fulfil its deadly destiny on Mike.

The latter half-rises, then falls upon the floor. The old woman laughs, a chilling, churdling cackle, that seems to crow over a crime foretold and a prophecy fulfilled.

Then she too falls upon her heap of bracken. Soon she is asleep, and it is the sleep that lasts.

* * *

Pat and Ida, awed by death, tiptoed from that silent room. What to do they hardly knew. P'faith that was no home for them now. Nor any other henceforth, for crime would out, and vengeance be swift and worthy of Achill Island.

Flight was their only course; but first they must destroy what evidence they could. So Ida and her man fired the hovel and made of it a funeral pyre for her mother and for the man who was murdered by her dying hand. Then they fled.

In Achill Island they talked long of that fire, and of how long the peat burned. Of how they found the old woman's charred and blackened frame; and a man's, too.

That they said was Pat, the newest "husband" of the witch of Achill.

How far wide they were of the truth you and I know, especially when I tell you that a great dolmen found among the ruins was, they said, Ida herself turned to stone and burned and blackened in the flames—a rare rich fate for a daughter of the devil, and a queen among witches.

Yet that stone after all was but one of those from the hills, carried down no doubt by infinite pains or by witchery, a hundred years ago, by Ida's grandmother or grandfather to serve for a hearth.

* * *

Pat and Ida were never seen again on Achill Island.

But we will find them where we found them first—in the boat. And may we, of our heart's compassion, spare a grain of pity, nay more, a smile, a good wish, a *bon voyage* to two adventurers in life; wild, untrained, untutored and untaught, two lovers of nature, yet of our kind, and one so soon to be a mother. Witch, was she? Well *all* women are witches, and they practise off their art.

* * *

So, good luck, my children. Your epic voyage in the boat is a story yet to tell.

Account-keeping for Local Labour Parties

What is a subsidiary book? Expressed simply the term as we use it here merely means a book used to record in detail, or separately for some other reason, matters of account that must also be recorded in the principal account books.

We saw in the first place that the *totals* of the Collector's Contribution Book were carried into the Secretary's (or Treasurer's) Cash Book. That was because it was inconvenient to re-enter every member's payment into the Cash Book. But the Contribution Book is in theory (and in practice for audit purposes) a part of the Cash Book and it is a subsidiary book to the latter.

But the Secretary's Cash Book may in itself be a subsidiary book to a more important Cash Book. A little thought will show how a local secretary's book, being subsidiary to a central secretary's book the whole system of accounts within the Party can be linked up.

Remember that the principles and the forms of books we have explained are applicable to the needs of every officer handling accounts with merely the variations of detail which we have also explained.

Let us suppose now that collectors pay in to a chief collector who pays any commission or expenses allowed; the chief collector pays in to the ward secretary (or treasurer) who, of course, expends normal ward expenditure; the ward secretary in turn pays amounts to the secretary of the local Party, and the latter has other items of income and, of course, the usual local Party expenses. And so on, if necessary.

At each stage a cash book must be kept, and the lower cash book, while always the Cash Book for the stage is reached, is nevertheless a subsidiary book to the next stage, and so on right up the ladder.

The contribution book of the collector is his personal cash book, the chief collector's cash book reflects the accounts for the whole body of collectors, the ward secretary's cash book gives us the ward accounts, and the

local Party secretary's (or D.L.P. secretary's) cash book contains *his* Party's cash account. Nothing could be simpler, for the principle and some of the actual books are standard, and there is a complete check of the payment from secretary to secretary throughout the series.

But though this illustration is a simple one and shows how local Labour Party accounts can be standardised, we have not quite covered the case of the local Party and central secretary, and some other secretaries. The busier the Party the more committees and officers there will be handling money. Besides the ward committees there will be women's sections, and it is not unknown for there also to be social committees, literature secretaries, bazaar committees (perhaps for a big bazaar several minor ones), May-Day committees, and what not, with club management and election contests thrown in.

Yet for cash accounting the principle is identical. Every person or organisation handling cash should possess a cash book, big or little as circumstances warrant. The transactions of each person or committee are then to be found in its own cash book, which, of course, is subsidiary to (and a part of, as we have seen) the cash book of the superior body.

The system is capable of infinite development.

The uses of subsidiary books are unending. To take another simple example. A secretary (why should we keep saying "or treasurer"?) frequently finds it inconvenient to enter small items in his cash book, and he therefore uses a petty cash book, or a postage book; or he may himself be acting in some dual capacity and find it helpful to keep for the time being certain cash entries separately, such as those for a bazaar.

A busy secretary might actually have in use several subsidiary cash books and use the main book for very few entries.

(To be continued)

Our 250

This being our 250th issue, we venture to reprint the message we gave in our 100th issue. Time has not altered matters.

It would be a vain affectation for the Editor not to seek expression in these columns for the satisfaction he feels that the *Labour Organiser* enters upon its tenth year amid the good wishes and felicitous expressions of those who matter in the manning of the good ship Labour. The "L.O." was humbly born, and the smiles and incredulities that met its first issues changed in time to warm approval and kind co-operation. We won by merit—as we trust to live by merit.

But the praises for the past that lie in plenty on our table to-day are only less sweet than the extraordinary kindness of our regular readers and contributors. Did ever Editor experience a better time? It is almost an axiom with Socialists that one must criticise. Yet in nine long years but one solitary letter of criticism has come to hand! How other Editors must envy our lot.

And why? Older spirits in our Movement yet speak lingeringly of a one-time fellowship that existed among the pioneers; when we were few, deep called to deep, and each knew and understood the other's solitude and soul. The pioneers had their reward after all.

But there is another fellowship to-day in our Movement, hardly realised, yet very real. If anyone does not know of the real bond of sympathy that binds the organisers, both paid and unpaid, that person does not know his modern Labour Movement. There is in real fact a oneness of outlook among the workers in the vineyard that has grown and blossomed almost unnoticed. There is a bond of brotherhood. It is the new fellowship—the fellowship of good men

THE LABOUR ORGANISER

Terms of Supply

SINGLE COPIES. Price 4d. or 5d. post free. Cash with Order. Orders for under six copies per month are charged at this rate.

CREDIT TERMS. 4d. per copy (postage paid) with a discount of 1d. in the 1/- on accounts under 10/-, or 2d. in 1/- on accounts over 10/- if paid within 14 days of quarterly account. Afterwards nett.

PAID-IN-ADVANCE TERMS. 3½d. per copy, post paid. For 12 copies or more per month a rebate of 1d. in the 1/- is allowed on the total, where 12 months copies are paid for at one time. Prepayment must be for 6 or 12 months. For orders of 24 copies or more, per month, rebate at the rate of 1½d. in the 1/-.

striving in similar case for a common end.

This discovery of our is no chimera. Those who travel know it. Party conferences prove it. Our postbag proves it. The two thousand readers of the *Labour Organiser* comprise the goodliest part of Labour's intimate life. Fellowship is very real in these places. May it live and remain is our earnest prayer in our 100th issue. And if anyone wants further proof that Fellowship lives let him cultivate his circle of secretaries; very soon he will find that helping hand and kind extension of experience and practice that, exemplified by our own readers, has made your Editor's task a very happy one. For the rest he must practise the fellowship, and he will find it—and abundantly.

TO SECRETARIES AND OTHERS

We take this opportunity of reminding our customers that an alteration of name of secretary in the Monthly List of Alterations is NOT taken by us as authority to alter our record of persons to whom copies are sent on behalf of their Local Parties. Any such instructions should be sent to us separately, for it is found that in many cases the copies are desired still to be sent to the former officer in another capacity.

Labour Party Directory**List of D.L.P. Alterations**

<i>Index No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Name of Organisation</i>	<i>Present Secretary and Address</i>
B25	CD	Wirral D.L.P.	Mr. E. VENABLES, 9 St. Andrew's Road, Bebington, Wirral, Cheshire.
D131	BD	Chatham and Rochester D.L.P.	Mrs. B. GRIEVESON, 127 Rochester Street, Chatham, Kent.
D133	CD	Ashford D.L.P.	Mrs. N. COPP, 155 Hythe Road, Ashford, Kent.
B146	SB	Barrow D.L.P.	The SECRETARY, Central Chambers, 2 Cavendish Street, Barrow-in-Furness.
B166	BD	Ardwick D.L.P.	Coun. H. EASTWOOD, 57 Ardwick Green North, Ardwick, Manchester, 12.
B205	CD	Widnes D.L.P.	Mr. H. CAMPBELL, Thornhill, Stockswell Road, Widnes, Lancs.
E245	SB	Holborn D.L.P.	Coun. Miss I. MARCOUSE, B.A., 44 Russell Square, London, W.C.1.
E246	BD	East Islington D.L.P.	Mrs. D. HODGSON, 24 Plimsoll Road, London, N.7.
E255	BD	Norwood D.L.P.	Mr. J. C. GORMLEY, 80 Leigham Vale, Tulse Hill, London, S.W.2.
D296	CD	Spelthorne D.L.P.	Mrs. F. R. NIVOGI, 64 Gresham Road, Staines, Middlesex.
C352	SB	Wednesbury D.L.P.	Mr. V. STEED, 27 Darlaston Road, Wednesbury, Staffs.
G369	CD	Sudbury D.L.P.	Mrs. TALBOT, 4 Springfield Road, Sudbury, Suffolk.
C393	BD	Edgbaston D.L.P.	Mrs. E. M. CROSSKEY, 7 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.

THE LABOUR PARTY

invite applications for the
**DISTRICT
ORGANISERSHIP
FOR THE
EAST MIDLAND
REGION**

Application Forms and the Conditions of Appointment may be had from the National Agent, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1, on or before November 28th, 1942.

LABOUR PARTY

APPLICATIONS
are invited for
the post of

**WOMAN
ORGANISER**
for the E. Midlands

Applicants must have experience of work of Women's Sections. Application forms and information about conditions of appointment to be obtained, by November 28th, from The Chief Woman Officer, Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1.